

Claim 1, and similarly claims 7, 9, 11 and 12 recite "overlap-area detecting means for detecting projection areas, each of the projection areas indicating a region in which the predetermined image is displayed in an sensing region of the sensing means and for detecting an overlap area at which the projection areas overlap one another, based on the sensing information; correction information generating means for generating correction information which indicates information for positions of the projection areas and a position of the overlap area; and projection area correction means for correcting image signals inputted into the plurality of image projection means, based on the correction information, so that an image is projected onto a region in the projection target area corresponding to the overlap area."

Claim 6, and similarly claims 8 and 10, recite "overlap-area detecting section which detects projection areas, each of the projection areas indicating a region in which the predetermined image is displayed in an sensing region of the sensing section, and detects an overlap area at which the projection areas overlap one another, based on the sensing information; correction information generating section which generates correction information which indicates information for positions of the projection areas and a position of the overlap area; and projection area correction section which corrects image signals inputted into the image projection sections, based on the correction information, so that an image is projected onto a region in the projection target area corresponding to the overlap area."

Claim 13 recites "detecting projection areas based on the sensing information that has been converted and detecting an overlap area in which the projection areas overlap one another, each of the projection areas indicating a region in the sensing area in which each of the projection area calibration images is projected; generating correction information which indicates information for positions of the projection areas and a position of the overlap area; correcting image signals inputted into the projectors based on the correction information, so that an image is projected onto a region in the projection target area corresponding to the

overlap area; and projecting images by the projectors based on the image signals that have been corrected."

These features are not disclosed by Ioka.

The Office Action cites Fig. 1 of Ioka when asserting that Ioka discloses all the features of claims 1-16. However, as is more easily seen when comparing Figs. 3, 9A and 10 of Ioka with Figs. 1 and 2B of the present application, it is clear that the image display system of Ioka does not project an image on the overlap area 60, but instead only projects images in a manner to overlap a part of a plurality of images on each other to display an image that is seamless. In contrast, the image display system of the present application projects an image on the overlap area. That is, Ioka fails to disclose an image projected onto a region in the projection target area corresponding to the overlap area, as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claims 6-13.

In addition, the compensation data calculator 16 of Ioka merely generates the information for the position of a marker in the sensed images (see col. 6, lines 21-27 of Ioka). Ioka does not disclose detecting the overlap area and does not disclose generating the information for a position of the overlap area and positions of the projection areas. Thus, the compensation data calculator 16 of Ioka does not correspond to the overlap-area detecting means and the correction information generating means of the present invention. That is, Ioka fails to disclose "overlap-area detecting means for detecting projection areas, each of the projection areas indicating a region in which the predetermined image is displayed in a sensing region of the sensing means and for detecting an overlap area at which the projection areas overlap one another, based on the sensing information; and correction information generating means for generating correction information which indicates information for positions of the projection areas and a position of the overlap area," as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in claims 7, 9, 11 and 12. Nor does Ioka disclose "overlap-area detecting

section which detects projection areas, each of the projection areas indicating a region in which the predetermined image is displayed in a sensing region of the sensing section, and detects an overlap area at which the projection areas overlap one another, based on the sensing information; and correction information generating section which generates correction information which indicates information for positions of the projection areas and a position of the overlap area," as recited in claim 6 and similarly recited in claims 8 and 10. Nor does Ioka disclose "detecting projection areas based on the sensing information that has been converted and detecting an overlap area in which the projection areas overlap one another, each of the projection areas indicating a region in the sensing area in which each of the projection area calibration images is projected; and generating correction information which indicates information for positions of the projection areas and a position of the overlap area," as recited in claim 13.

In addition, although the image correcting unit 13 of Ioka performs the correction of output characteristics, such as geometric deformation compensation, color irregularity compensation, color difference compensation, shading compensation, bias compensation, and gamma compensation, Ioka does not correct image signals in a manner to project an image on the overlap area. See col. 5, line 64 - col. 6, line 3 of Ioka. Accordingly, the image correcting unit 13 of Ioka does not correspond to the projection area correction means of the present invention. That is, Ioka does not disclose projection area correction means for correcting image signals inputted into the plurality of image projection means, based on the correction information, as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claims 6-13.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Ioka does not anticipate the subject matter of claims 1 and 6-13, as well as the claims depending therefrom.

With respect to dependent claims 2 and 14, Ioka fails to disclose determining a peak position that is a brightest position in each of the projection area calibration images that have

been sensed, based on the sensing information for the projection area calibration images, as recited in each of claims 2 and 14.

With respect to claims 3 and 15, Ioka fails to disclose detecting the overlap area by adding a brightness index value of a pixel or a pixel block in each of the projection areas that have been detected, as recited by each of claims 3 and 15.

Instead, Ioka discloses an image display system that merely performs a shading compensation by applying a pixel data for the projection surface center position. See col. 7, lines 57-64 of Ioka.

Accordingly, claims 2 and 14, as well as claims 3 and 15, are not anticipated by Ioka for the same reasons as the claims from which they depend as well as for the additional novel features they recite.

For the foregoing reasons, claims 1 and 6-13 are not anticipated by Ioka. Furthermore, claims 2, 3, 14 and 15 are not anticipated by Ioka. Moreover, dependent claims 2-5 and 14-16 are not anticipated by Ioka at least for the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

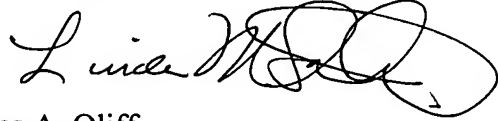
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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